



Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 7, Issue #1

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

10 May 2012

Pest Patrol Hotline

If you do not have access to this newsletter but want the information contained herein each week, there is a toll-free hotline for insect problems updated here. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. Call the free number **(877) 285-8525** and select the messages you would like to hear. Select #1 for updates from the Southern Region. Select #3 for the Southeast, and then select #1 to hear my message. The hotline is sponsored by Syngenta.

Insect Scouting Clinics

We are going to be offering in-field insect identification and management clinics during the growing season this year instead of offering an indoor scouting school. Most comments and suggestions seemed to favor this in-field, hands-on approach, so we are going to try this format this season. Stayed tuned for details on when we will offer the brief, in-field clinics. Because insect issues can be abrupt, the notices could be short on clinic locations and times.

News from Above the Lakes

No news to report this week. Please email your observations to me by Wednesday to include here.

News from Below the Lakes

Charles Davis, county agent covering Calhoun and Orangeburg Counties, reported that he has observed millions of snails in seedling cotton but that they do not seem to be causing any injury to the cotton. According to the body of knowledge about the importance of these critters in row crops, slugs are the “slime riders” that can cause injury, with snails described as not very damaging. Charles also reported that he has observed successful reproduction of kudzu bugs on fig trees. Although kudzu bugs prefer legumes as reproductive hosts, the scientific literature reports that they can be pests of fruit trees as well.

Jonathan Croft, county agent covering Dorchester and Berkeley Counties, reported that the cotton he has looked at so far looks good, with no reports of any problems with insects so far.

News from the Piedmont/Upstate

Cory Heaton, county agent covering Chester, York, and Lancaster Counties, reported that he has seen several cotton fields with low populations of thrips. He also reported that cotton planted in April looks “strong” and that some of that was planted the 2nd week of April!

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Cotton Situation

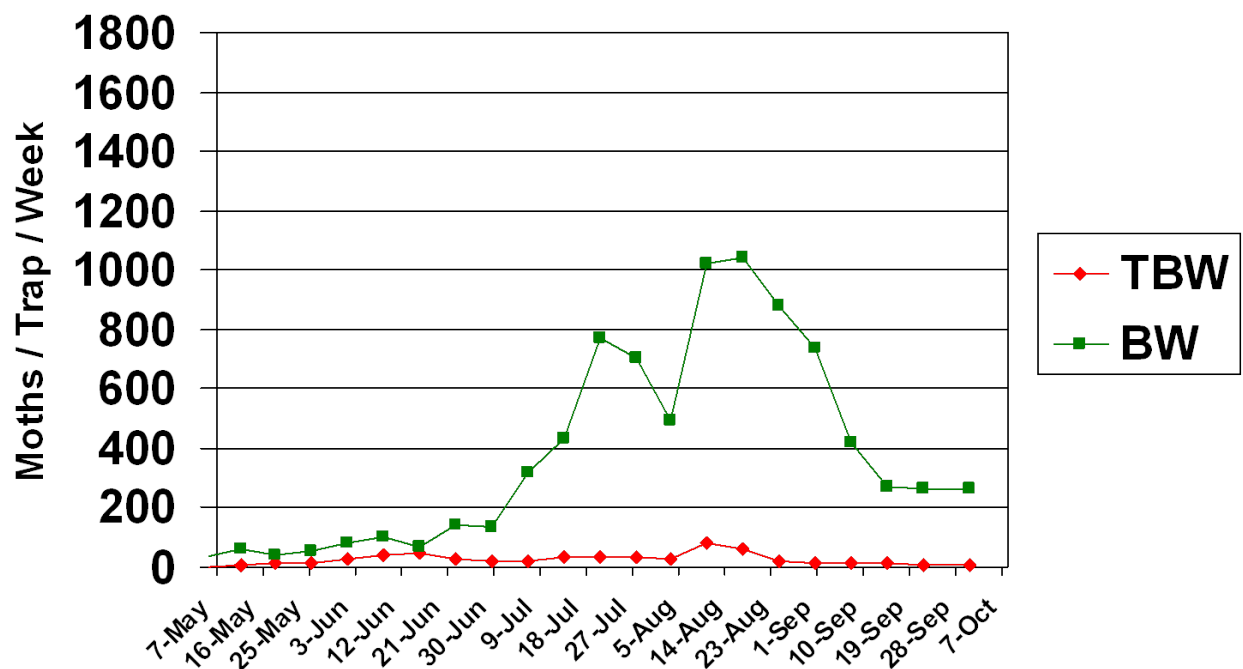
As of 6 May 2012, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at about 27% planted, close to where we were in 2011 at 29% but ahead of the 5-yr average of 21%. Temperatures have remained unseasonably high this spring, and we have another hefty deficit in rainfall for 2012. The overall soil moisture levels in the state were described as 16% very short, 44% short, and 40% adequate, with no surplus. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



We have started checking our pheromone traps and will begin reporting those data next week. Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC during 2011 are shown here for reference. In general, numbers were high last year but not as high as those observed during 2010. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for a very limited number of non-Bt-cotton acres. I provide these data as a measure of moth activity in our local area where I use these data as an indication of moth presence and activity near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state.

Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2011



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Thrips/Nematodes in Cotton – What to do without Temik

This spring has certainly been a warm one, and everything has progressed quickly – faster than “normal”. Our current weather pattern has us back closer to normal, with some cool nights headed our way. As cotton growth slows at night during the next week, thrips will become very important. Watch those seedlings that are up with less than 4 leaves, and carefully watch those plants emerging this coming week. They will be particularly vulnerable.

One of my colleagues describes thrips as our most consistent insect pests of cotton, and he couldn’t be more correct. We can always count on thrips to be important every year, so we recommend and use preventative materials for control/suppression of thrips...that has become routine. In our soils, we can also count on nematodes to be important, but because they don’t have 6 legs, I will refrain from spending too much time on them. The point is that we have managed both pest groups with one product (aldicarb – Temik) for so long, and now we basically do not have that option with the limited supply of Temik. What should we do without Temik? Well, the options are limited, so that makes deciding what to do easier.

You should already know what levels of nematodes you are dealing with in each field and have addressed that with Telone or rotation to a poor host for nematodes in fields with heavy/moderate levels of the parasitic worms. So, you should be dealing with low-to-moderate levels of nematodes where you are planting cotton. It gets even simpler after that. If you have fields with moderate nematode infestations and have some Temik, use the Temik on those fields. If your sampling resolution allows you to define zones of nematode infestation within fields, use Temik in the zones with higher levels of nematodes. In areas/zones or fields with lower infestations of nematodes, seed treatments (Aeris, Avicta, etc.) alone will suffice. Because those seed treatments contain nematicide and insecticide, you will get some suppression of low levels of nematodes and adequate activity on thrips.

Remember **mid-May** for “the fence” when it comes to how aggressive you are with insecticide sprays for thrips, particularly with the seed treatments. If you plant before mid-May, you are at a higher risk for thrips injury, so a foliar spray for thrips will likely be required – plan on it. Recent data on timing of those sprays indicates that treatments going out at 1st leaf are hard to beat. Any sprays for thrips going out at or after 4-5 leaves will be revenge spraying, returning very little for the time and expense. Spray early. Fields that are planted after mid-May are at a reduced risk for thrips injury, so scout those fields and treat them according to injury symptoms and presence of thrips, particularly immatures, at or exceeding threshold (2 per plant). Fields that are planted during mid-May puts you “on the fence” when deciding to treat or not – scout and treat those fields as needed.

Soybean Situation

As of 6 May 2012, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 25% planted, with 7% of soybeans as emerged, ahead of last year and the 5-yr average of 3%. Overall conditions for soybeans were similar to those in cotton. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.



Kudzu Bug/Bean Plataspid

Visit our kudzu bug webpage for the latest information on this new pest. We have a new fact sheet for homeowners, the latest map of its distribution in the Southeast, videos, recommendations for managing the pest in soybeans, and more.

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/kudzubugs/index.html>



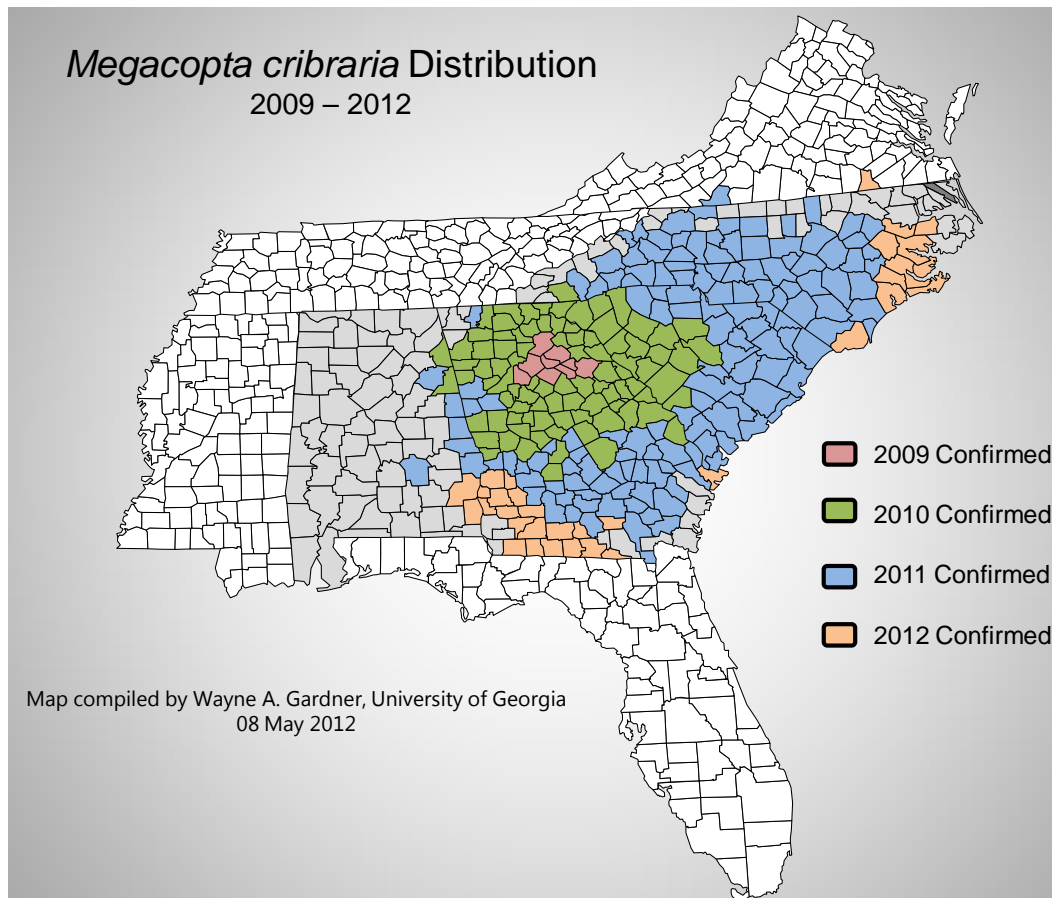
Eggs



Nymphs



Adults



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Pest Management Handbook - 2012

Insect control recommendations are available online in the 2012 South Carolina Pest Management Handbook at:
<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/pest/index.html>

Need More Information?

Log on to the following web pages to view important recommendations, data, and historical cotton/soybean insect newsletters:

For more Extension information:

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/>

For past newsletters:

http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/cotton/pest_management/newsletters/index.html

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.

Associate Professor – Entomologist



Visit our website at:

<http://www.clemson.edu>

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